

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. The Action mailed September 21, 2005 is an election of species restriction requirement in which the Examiner asserts that the claims of the application are directed to two patentably distinct species: Group I, drawn to Figures 1-9, and Group II, drawn to Figures 10-21. Furthermore, the Examiner asserts that no claim is generic. However, Applicants respectfully submit that many of the claims are indeed generic, and thus Applicants traverse the election of species restriction requirement.

For example, claim 1 recites:

A mounting device for connecting an electrical fixture to a junction box that is mounted to a wall or ceiling surface, the mounting device comprising:
a canopy element that covers the junction box upon connection of the mounting device to the junction box;
a connector that connects to the electrical fixture and is disposed between the canopy element and the junction box; and
a universal mounting plate integrally formed with the connector that connects to the junction box.

The embodiment shown in Figs. 1-9 includes a canopy element 26, a connector 28, and a universal mounting plate 30 as recited in claim 1. *See* page 10, line 8 through page 13, line 10 of the application for further explanation. The embodiment shown in Figs. 10-21 also includes a canopy element 82, a connector 84, and a universal mounting plate 86 as recited in claim 1. *See* page 14, line 3 through page 15, line 15 for further explanation. Claim 1 covers both embodiments shown in the drawings (and other embodiments), and is thus generic.

By way of further example, claims 2 and 3 recite:

2. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the electrical fixture comprises an exit sign.

3. The mounting device of claim 1, wherein the universal

mounting plate includes a plurality of apertures patterned to correspond to apertures in the junction box.

These claims are likewise generic as the electrical fixture shown in all of the drawings is an exit sign and the mounting plates 30 and 86 shown in the drawings both include a plurality of apertures patterned to correspond to apertures in a junction box, as recited in claims 2 and 3 respectively. Moreover, a close inspection of the application and claims reveals that claims 4-6, 14-17, 20, 21, and 25 are also generic, as they read on all of the embodiments shown in Figs. 1-21. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-6, 14-17, 20, 21, and 25 should not be subject to any election or restriction requirement and should now be examined by the Patent Office as generic claims.

With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants believe that claims 7, 9, 10, and 22 read on the embodiment shown in Figs. 1-9 (Group I) and claims 8, 11-13, 18, 19, 23, and 24 read on the embodiment shown in Figs. 10-21 (Group II). Applicant elects Group II, which includes claims 8, 11-13, 18, 19, 23, and 24, as the species for prosecution. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request examination of claims 1-6, 8, 11-21, and 23-25, the generic claims and claims in Group II.

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Action mailed September 21, 2005. If the Examiner believes that there are any issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference, or that there are any informalities that can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, please call the undersigned attorney. Moreover, if the Examiner disagrees with Applicants' identification of generic claims or the claims corresponding to Groups I and II, Applicants' request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to

schedule an interview to discuss the same. It is believed no fees are due for this submission; if this is incorrect, please charge any additional fees that may be due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Order Account No. 11-0855.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey K. Gavin', written in a cursive style.

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